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SIXPENCE

MILITARY AUTHORITIES, whether they are concerned with land, sea or air, have a pleasant autocratic way with them, though as a rule in this country their powers of exercising it in peace time are limited. It is usually their strength that they can only see one thing at a time, and that concentration becomes terrific when it is transferred into practice through a bureaucratic medium at a moment of urgent re-armament. Our Air Force lords plank down aerodromes all over the place, without the smallest consideration for factors that may be as important as the facilitation of their activities. Why should they stop to inquire if they are immobilising valuable corn land while there are acres of waste ground equally suitable? What have they to do with amenities and beauty? Nothing at all. It will be interesting to see whether Blakeney Point, with all its interest and beauty, can be saved from the grip of the authorities, who have certainly not considered other sites which could be devoted with less expense and loss to the requirements of the god of War.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY has, on the whole, had a very bad Press in connection with its purchase of the panels described officially as "by Giorgione." The official label appears to be disputed by the experts who know most about Giorgione, and whatever the merit of the panels, it seems highly improbable that anyone would have paid £14,000 for them, if they had been signed Previtali. It is the business of the National Gallery to provide so far as it can pictures of real interest and beauty for the public to enjoy, but its functions would seem to preclude any plunging into the speculative market, any purchasing of pictures on the strength of a doubtful name. Dr. Richter has put forward abundant evidence to show that the panels are far more likely to be the work of Previtali than Giorgione and he has also wrecked the romantic myths as to their origin which were in circulation. Most art lovers are agreed that they are not of outstanding perfection and that profound beauty and rare loveliness are not words that can be reasonably associated with them. The most satisfactory feature of the affair is that the Italian authorities will have no grudge to bear against us for the loss of pictures that were part of the national patrimony, as they would have had if the panels had been worthy of Giorgione.

"**THE TIMES**" has celebrated the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of Australia in its own happy way with an Australian Number whose comprehensive contents must excite the wonder and admiration of all who read it. Every phase of Australia's progress is there touched on by a team of writers whose names are guarantee of authoritative knowledge, and a mere perusal of the table of contents affords

a pleasing indication of the rich feast of reading that is offered anyone who is intent on acquainting himself or herself with the past history and present problems of this vigorous, free and autonomous member of the British Commonwealth of Nations. Lord Gowrie, Australia's Governor-General, in a special message reproduced in this *Times* Number, sums up admirably the record of Australia's achievement in the hundred and fifty years that have elapsed since Governor Phillip made his historic landing at Port Jackson on January 26, 1788. "To-day," he says, "the Commonwealth of Australia takes a place of increasing importance in Imperial counsels and, by virtue of her geographical position, in that great part of the world which lies around the Pacific basin. It is about 150 years since Sydney, her oldest city, was founded, but in that time Australia has achieved in commerce, in industry and in the tragic and splendid achievements of the Great War a true nationhood. The old conceptions of colonial status have long since gone; but beyond such constitutional bonds as may exist to-day there are far deeper ties—the ties of a common racial heritage and a common tradition which is as dearly prized in the farthestmost outposts of the great Commonwealth as in the heart of the Empire itself. No longer solely of agricultural and pastoral importance, Australia to-day is emerging as an industrial country. Public policy has been directed to building up secondary production in the Commonwealth. Of any picture which is now given of Australia that must form an important part. Although the first hardships of the pioneering days are over, the battle against Nature is still being fought—fought now with all the resources that modern industrial organisation can bring to bear upon it. In Australia British people may find a British achievement in which they can take due pride. British stock is predominant, and British ways, adapted to the needs of a different land, have built a great new British country."

FLYING CLINICS have been inaugurated by the Canadian Health Authorities as part of a general scheme for promoting the well-being of Red Indians in outlying parts of the Dominion. A complete diagnostic outfit, including an X-ray and an electrical generator to operate it, was recently flown by chartered plane from Prince Albert to Indian residential schools at Lac la Ronge and Beauval in northern Saskatchewan, where tuberculosis clinics were being conducted by Dr. A. B. Simes, senior Indian Affairs medical officer in Saskatchewan, and a clinical team of the Saskatchewan Anti-tuberculosis League. While the aeroplane has been used in the past to carry medicine and supplies to remote districts, and to bring sick and injured Indians to hospitals, this was the first time

that the facilities of a modern clinic were brought to the Indians by plane. Progress in the eradication of diseases to which the Red Indians appear most susceptible is making its greatest strides through the attention given the children in the schools. A large number of the residential schools have been surveyed and re-surveyed so that all pupils are examined, many of them by X-ray. Notwithstanding the difficulties which have to be contended with, these surveys have proved of great advantage. The school principal and his local medical adviser have had the benefit of the advice of a competent specialist, and the results are reported to have been excellent. The Indian Affairs Branch employs some five hundred doctors and dentists on whole or part-time work, and has several hospitals of its own and a small field nursing service. It supplies medicine both by central purchase and local prescription and engages in every activity relating to the health of about 115,000 Red Indians living in some eight hundred separate communities in Canada.

"YOU WILL FORGIVE us for expressing some doubt about the impartiality of judgment in an article which gives such weight to the opinion of some unnamed but 'eminent' Non-conformist divine who wanted his son to have 'a real connoisseur's taste in wine.' It is, of course, right that we should hear such opinions, but equally right that we should be informed that in France, where there are so many such connoisseurs, the opinion of the most eminent medical authorities is that wine-drinking is contributing rapidly to national deterioration."

Extract from a letter to "The Listener," signed by the three Joint Hon. Secretaries of the National Temperance Federation and a Parliamentary agent. It seems a pity that the three Joint Hon. Secretaries of the National Temperance Federation and the Parliamentary agent (*que diable allait-il faire dans cette galère?*) failed to name these "most eminent medical authorities" and tell the world why wine is suddenly contributing to the deterioration of a nation which has always drunk wine and has not done so badly in the past, if memory serves. Must teetotallers indulge in half-witted insults to our friends? Their attention might be drawn to the opinion of a quite "eminent" authority named Pasteur, who wrote: "Our object should be to provide rich and poor alike at a low price with the wine of France, which is a food, the natural wine with which God so lavishly endowed our fair land." And elsewhere, "*le vin peut être à bon droit considéré comme la plus saine, la plus hygiénique des boissons.*"

"THE MELODY THAT GOT LOST," by Kjeld Abell, adapted by Katherine North and Denis Freeman, is a mixture of revue and musical comedy, and is a delightful hotch-potch of devices, original ideas, nonsense and common sense. The main theme is the revolt of a little clerk against the humdrum of his life. The melody he hears represents escape and he wants to throw all safety and respectability to the winds. Mother-in-law sees to it that he does not, and a dingy flat with aspidistra, results for himself and a charming

little wife. The young couple are not happy and decide to recapture the melody and thereby hangs the tale. Many of the scenes are ingenious and very funny, but the show needs a little judicious pruning.

Margaret Rutherford carries the honours as Ma-in-law, and Dorothy Hyson, Christopher Steele and Esmond Knight play with vigour and delight.

"MOURNING BECOMES ELECTRA" has moved to the New Theatre; the cast is unchanged with one exception, Seth Beckwith being played by William Devlin with his usual skill. Mr. Eugene O'Neill's over-powering tragedy still attracts large audiences despite its length. It would be possible to cut it by about fifteen minutes, but the dialogue is so intensely enthralling that it is not until the final curtain that any sense of weariness attacks the mind and body. Miss Beatrix Lehmann is as fine as ever, the weeks of playing this exacting part have left her interpretation as fresh as ever, and to follow her during the hours she is on the stage is an experience never to be forgotten. The same may be said of Laura Cowie, and these two women, with an excellent supporting cast, give a performance which, if equalled, has certainly never been excelled.

"POISON PEN," by Richard Llewellyn, at the Embassy Theatre has been much improved since it was played at Richmond. Walter Fitzgerald makes of the vicar a competent kindly soul, beloved by all the parish; it is a masterful sketch. Margaret Yarde, as his sister, and his support in all his good works and difficulties is a piece of realistic acting hard to surpass. She skilfully avoids over-acting even in the final and terrible denouement. A play for grown-ups, and well worth seeing.

THE SCREEN VERSION of Mr. Deval's comedy, *Tovaritch*, went to the Tivoli this week and should prove popular, though it is somewhat disappointing to those who have seen the play, the lines of which it follows pretty closely. The plot has the familiar theme of the prince and princess in disguise, who prove themselves to be rather nicer people than anyone else with whom they come in contact. In this case they are Russian emigrants in Paris, where the prince retains a tight hold on an enormous sum of money entrusted to him by the Tsar. Refusing to draw on this for his personal advantage, or to hand it over to finance a counter-revolution, of whose futility he is convinced, the prince, together with his wife, goes into domestic service in a wealthy banker's household. All progresses amusingly and well until a dinner is given for the Russian Commissar, who is trying to raise money for Russia by selling the Russian oilfields. To save these the prince hands over the money to his enemy, and he and his wife continue in domestic service, for which they both have aptitude and inclination. Neither Charles Boyer nor Claudette Colbert appear to me to get under the skin of this pleasant little orange, but Basil Rathbone's Commissar is an excellent piece of work,

Leading Articles

OUR ANCIENT ALLY

ON the first of the coming month a detachment of the Home Fleet will visit Lisbon, and this visit of friendship will be followed by the dispatch of a British Services Mission representing the Army, Navy and Air Force to co-operate with their opposite numbers in Portugal for the consideration of the problems that arise out of the Anglo-Portuguese defensive alliance. Our modernists are wont to cry on the house-tops that science has changed everything, but, when it comes to the point, scientific inventions have multiplied the factors in the equation both plus and minus as many times as you please, but the fundamental fact on which the equation is based remains the same. Hypnotised by looking at one side of the equation alone, by concentrating their attention on the apparent annihilation of speed, people who should know better have assured us that the Channel ports—Antwerp included—are no longer a pistol pointed at the heart of England. The pistol is still there, and it is infinitely more deadly because of the increase of its range. Setting long-range guns and submarines aside, every mile that an aeroplane has to cover before it reaches its target implies a decrease of its offensive power and a corresponding increase of its peril.

Recent events have reminded us rather roughly that our ancestors were not such fools as we are sometimes pleased to think them. In the fourteenth and fifteenth century Portugal was the most adventurous of nations. Its present colonial Empire and Brazil, that broke away from it like the United States from us, are there to prove it, if history did not bear witness to it and the very name of King Henry the Navigator. In the 14th century our merchants were wise enough to persuade John of Gaunt to make a definite alliance with Ferdinand of Portugal, and for over five hundred years that alliance has endured. It is built upon mutual interest, and that interest is greater to-day than ever before. It so happens that Portugal possesses a coast line and island ports that are vital to our Empire, which was said in Victorian days to be founded on coaling stations, and Portugal can only enjoy the Empire that has been hers for centuries if she can depend on the friendship of a great sea Power.

The recent history of Portugal is interesting and encouraging. Of all the nations which adopted British constitutional institutions, it suffered worse than any other from their want of adaptation to the character of the people. Nowhere was the corruption of a so-called Parliamentary Government more corrupt and more disastrous. The Portuguese themselves, a light-hearted race working hard and asking little, toiled on only to enrich politicians and produce bankruptcy for their sake. Happily for them, Dr. Salazar, a genius who has

always shunned the limelight and who more closely resembles Plato's philosopher king than any ruler of our time, was compelled by circumstances to take the helm of State. After a mere flurry of a revolution, the old political profiteers bolted with their booty to keep up propaganda on the behalf of so-called Liberty, like the Presidents of South American Republics who took the cash and let their countries go. Their voices are still heard. They grew quite loud when this country so unfortunately became entangled in its Spanish sympathies. Fortunately, there are enough good Englishmen and Scotsmen living in Portugal to give the lie to the protestations of these exiles who left their country for their country's good.

British merchants were originally attracted to Portugal by the prospect of trade with Brazil. Trade with the Portuguese colonies was only permitted through the motherland, and it was this connection which eventually established that trade in wine, which gave birth to Port, the Englishman's wine. It may almost be said that vintage Port exists nowhere in the world except in this country, and in consequence many millions of British money have been invested in the cellars of Oporto. Those delightful English people who live in Oporto bear witness to the amazing increase in happiness and prosperity which the Portuguese have enjoyed under the new *régime*. They are agreed that to-day the best people—that is, those who care least about themselves and most about the welfare of their country—control the land, and the result has been highly satisfactory to all concerned except those political enthusiasts who coined what was called Liberty into their own pockets. Only those who know Portugal can realise the virtues of its inhabitants. They are men of thews and sinews who run lightly across their mountains and who enjoy the supreme felicity of simple enjoyment. It is a pity that more English people do not visit Portugal on their holidays; for it is a delightful pastoral country full of beauty and historic interest, and nowadays excellent hotels can be found in many places. Those who have attended a Douro vintage know that there is no more hospitable country in the world and nowhere is it possible to find a more sympathetic peasantry.

Neighbours are always alive to one another's faults, and naturally little love is lost between Spain and Portugal. The Spaniards have a proverb: "Scrape a Spaniard of his virtues and you find a Portuguese," and the Portuguese reply with the same proverb turned the other way. In the Spanish civil war, it was natural that a country which had suffered for many years from a Latin travesty of English notions of liberalism, should sympathise with General Franco, who not only stood for stability and tradition, but was also the unquestioned master of the territories adjoining the Portuguese frontier. There are still many worthy Englishmen who will not see that our own particular notions are not everybody's meat, and they did their utmost in contempt of history and commonsense to make us quarrel with Portugal over the Spanish civil war.

They forgot, or perhaps did not wish to remember, that when Napoleon organised the Continental Blockade against these islands, it was Portugal

which opened its doors to our trade, with the result that a French dictatorship over Europe was defeated. In the recent War, Portugal came enthusiastically to our aid with everything to lose and little to gain, and those who do not appreciate that effort are blinded by a dangerous and damnable sense of insular superiority. We are rightly proud of our Elizabethan adventurers, but that pride should not prevent us doing homage to those Portuguese pioneers who have left their name and their fortifications in so many parts of the world.

As things are, Portugal commands sea routes that are of vital importance to our Empire. Any challenge to our supremacy in the Mediterranean multiplies their value, for Portugal lies in a position of supreme strategical value, and her possessions are no less valuable. In the past, weeks or months counted as hours in modern warfare, but still the positions that were vital in former warfare are vital to-day. Every Englishman who takes his glass of port at the end of the day when his labours are finished should raise it to the health of our ancient ally and the continuance and strengthening of Anglo-Portuguese friendship.

CHANCE AND THE EMPIRE

AUSTRALIA is making the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of its founding into a prolonged celebration of three months. At least, it would be more correct to say that Sydney and New South Wales are doing this, for the other States of the Commonwealth, while not wholly neglecting to pay their due respects to the great day, have not apparently felt called upon to display their enthusiasm for the anniversary with quite the same lavishness of programmes as Sydney and New South Wales have not unnaturally thought fitting and proper.

In this fact we have yet another indication of the strength of State loyalty and patriotism in the Australian Commonwealth—a factor that has played a by no means unimportant part in Australian history and has still to be reckoned with, though nearly forty years have elapsed since the Commonwealth came into being. The efforts of Western Australia in recent years to get the British Parliament to sanction its secession from the Commonwealth afforded perhaps the most significant demonstration of the vigour of this sturdy Australian provincialism. But one need not stress the point, for the awkward corner presented by the Western Australian petition seems to have been successfully negotiated, and the Commonwealth has undoubtedly come to stay, even if the Australian people, as a whole, in a series of referendum verdicts have made their central authorities clearly understand that State rights must be duly respected. And here Australia's heritage of the British love of compromise has come in to find a way of harmonising central and State claims by means of such institutions as the Premiers' conference and the Loan Council.

But this Australian sesquicentenary—if one may be forgiven for using such an ugly-sounding term

—must inevitably suggest other reflections, and among them the slightly humbling thought how much this Empire of ours owes its present greatness to the intervention of chance or perhaps some would prefer to say to the kindness of Providence. Certainly our conquest of India did not enter into the calculations of our early merchant adventurers or even our eighteenth century statesmen. The first East India Company thought more of the prospects of trade in the Malayan archipelago than in India itself, and when it came to establishing further factories in India John Company was exceedingly loath to increase its responsibilities. If it had not been for the mere accident that a Clive was among the Company's young assistants, we should probably never have embarked upon a policy of territorial acquisition in India. And assuredly neither the British Parliament nor our statesmen did much to encourage the growth of British power in India by their treatment either of Clive or Warren Hastings.

Similarly in the case of Australia, chance played the premier part in giving us what Admiral and Governor Phillip foresaw would be "the most valuable acquisition Great Britain ever made." If it had not been for the loss of the American colonies and the need for some new dumping ground for British convicts whom the hulks and British prisons could not accommodate, the explorations of Dampier and Cook would probably have been in vain. Eighteen years were to elapse after Cook had landed in what he called Botany Bay (because of the profusion of plants he found there), before Phillip was to arrive in Sydney Cove with his first consignment of convicts. And it was assuredly a stroke of good fortune that Australia's first Governor should have been a man of vision and outstanding administrative capacity. No one knows to-day how he came to be given this post. He had not specially distinguished himself, though he had proved himself to be an able Naval Officer and good disciplinarian. It would look as if his selection for the post of Governor of this first convict settlement was due solely to the fact that the Navy could spare his services and that he was thought good enough for a not particularly important job. His faith in Australia's future and his declaration that "I would not have convicts lay the foundation of an Empire" found no response from the statesmen who ruled England at the time. Even Pitt could see nothing more in this new addition to the Crown's dominions than the cheapest "mode of disposing of the convicts" that could be discovered, and neither he nor any other English statesman was overmuch concerned over the stories of abuses and lawlessness that, after Phillip's return to England, came from a "country and place so forbidding and hateful as only to merit execration and curses."

Despite the grave handicaps of its unhappy and inauspicious beginnings, Australia made steady and notable progress so soon as the influx of free settlers into its empty spaces started in real earnest. But just at the moment when the country was to enter upon the era of responsible self-government, chance once more intervened to give it that stimulus which was needed for its future prosperity. The discovery of gold led to the trebling of

Australia's population in the space of a single decade and paved the way both for the cultivation of wheat on a vast scale on hitherto unused land and for the creation of those secondary industries which account for much of the Commonwealth's present productive wealth. And this considerable increase in population had an enormous influence in shaping the Commonwealth's political development as a free democracy in the congeries of nations that constitute the British Empire.

SHERRY

SHERRY retains its popularity and quality despite the Spanish Civil War and it is to be hoped that it will never again fall into the disrepute which overwhelmed it in the past through the ghastly imitations such as Hamburg Sherry poured out upon the unfortunate consumer. It is one of the most distinctive wines, depending for its charm on the soil, climate and vines of the Jerez neighbourhood, and they can be duplicated nowhere in the world. The dry Sherries which have done the wine-lover such service by their challenge to the palate-rotting cocktail owe their unique flavour to the work of yeasts which come into operation after the ordinary fermentation is completed. The saccharomyces are microbes in the grape bloom which convert the sugar of the grape into alcohol and carbonic acid gas and when they have converted the grape juice into wine, a new microbe comes into play, the mycoderma vini, or flower. The flower which floats on the surface of the wine in a thick white layer is very greedy of oxygen and unlike almost all other wines, sherry is left on ullage to encourage it. It is the enemy of those other wines, for it turns them flat. For some reason still chemically unexplained, the flower, instead of dulling the sherry flavour, gives it that attractive dry nutty flavour which makes it such a perfect herald of other wines. This curiosity of the flower was not discovered till the sixties of the last century. Previously wines that had flowered were sold locally at the lowest price. It was merely by accident that the shippers discovered the peculiar virtues of the wines that had flowered and to-day they command a higher price than any others.

A good dry sherry cleans the palate and whets the appetite. A little brandy will have been added to it after fermentation and it has been blended from the wines of many vineyards and many years. Yet it is a homogenous whole in a sense which makes most other blended wines seem a mere artificial composition. If it is to be good, the wines that compose it must not be young and if it has been able to stay in the bottle for some years, its merits are enormously developed by what is called bottle age. One thing is essential. No sherry worth drinking has been sweetened with anything but grape sugar, with any concoction more alien to the vine than a sweet wine produced from grapes of the district. No wine-lover will even smell what is called British Sherry. Unfortunately, there are sherries that come from Spain

which have somewhere en route come in contact with the syrup known as Capillaire. Their treatment can be told at once by the palate, for there is a meretricious sweetness in their taste, which drowns the grape flavour and suggests machine-made synthesis. No discerning drinker will have any dealings with them.

There is no reason why sherry should not be more or less sweet if the taste desires it. The tonic dryness of a Tio Pepe frightens some delicate folk. Sherry is a wine which can meet every taste without going outside the limits set by every connoisseur. A deliciously sweet wine is made from the Pedro Ximenez grape, which in a blend adds richness as well as sugar to the aroma. Sherry has many advantages which are not to be despised in these cellar-less days of haste. A bottle can be opened and its contents will not lose their charm for many days. Its flavour will stand up against tobacco; indeed it almost welcomes the competition of my lady nicotine. Moreover there are varieties of sherry to suit every possible stage of the meal. It is sad that after-dinner sherry has so utterly disappeared from average hospitality. There are fine golden sherries which are as attractive as and more wholesome than most after-dinner wines and I have lately been offering to guests a very old East Indian sherry which once went round the world as ballast in a sailing ship. Everyone who tastes it is enchanted with its clean and delightful flavour and one hopes that the day will yet return when sherry will be an accepted alternative to port at the end of a meal.

H. W. A.



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Books of The Day

WAR MISSIONS TO U.S.A.

IN the collection of Great War records of essential if subsidiary services there has hitherto been one important omission: there has been no attempt at any general survey of the work accomplished by the large number of "Missions" that were despatched by the British Government to the United States at various periods of the four years' struggle. No doubt hidden away in Whitehall's archives are the various official reports of these Civil, Military and Naval Missions, waiting for some enterprising historian to dig them out and discover in them material for illuminating comment. Meanwhile one may be grateful to Colonel W. G. Lyddon—himself one of our first "missioners" to the States—for having lifted the veil of secrecy enveloping these Missions and for giving us a brief but highly interesting and lucid general account of why they came to be despatched and how they discharged their multifarious and very responsible duties ("British War Missions to the United States, 1914-1918," with a foreword by the late Marquis of Reading, Milford, Oxford University Press, 10s. 6d.). These Missions dealt with every problem of supply, and after the United States' entry into the war they were also concerned with securing America's full co-operation in matters of food, shipping and finance and with assisting the American authorities in the rapid and efficient training of the United States' military forces. At this latter stage, too, there occurred what Colonel Lyddon rightly calls "the remarkable development" of the establishment of "executive departments of the British Government—an epitome in fact of the British Civil Service—in a country which more than a century before had ceased to be a part of the British Empire."

In the earlier period of American neutrality the British Missions had many grave and awkward difficulties to encounter and overcome. Fortunately from the very beginning they took account of American susceptibilities and avoided doing anything that might prejudice the Allied cause with a nation quick to resent interference or dictation from the foreigner. The German Embassy at Washington had no such scruples. It at once proceeded to embark upon a vigorous pro-German propaganda, and German Naval and Military Attachés were busily and openly engaged in encouraging strikes and sabotage in American factories which had accepted British contracts. Americans, friendly to the Allies, had suggested that the British Missions and Embassy should institute their own propaganda to counter these sinister German activities. But it was wisely decided to refrain from propaganda of any kind and, in order that there should not be the slightest ground for associating the British Embassy with any action outside its ordinary diplomatic duties, the British Missions carried on their work independently of it. Thus the American public in the early months of the war was afforded a significant contrast between German and British methods, and British tact and

commonsense had their reward in the gradually increasing popular sympathy throughout the States with the cause of the Allies. To translate that sympathy into active participation in the war it only needed an incident that would touch American pride on the raw. That incident was provided by the sinking of the *Lusitania*, and Colonel Lyddon cites as an illustration of its immediate effect on American public opinion the case of a Middle West firm whose partners had been induced to drop the negotiations they had begun for a British contract by the intervention of their wives. "The negotiations were dropped; but, on the morning after the *Lusitania* was sunk, the wives again appeared in their husbands' office and stated that they had again been considering matters, and that if their husbands did not at once enter into war contracts, they had made up their minds to leave them. Needless to say, the war contracts were obtained."

At the time when the first Missions arrived in America, Colonel Lyddon says, "it was a common impression amongst Americans who had not travelled in Europe, gained no doubt from stage representations, that a British gentleman was a 'Haw-Damme' sort of person, full of side, autocratic and wanting in sympathy; further, as he usually wore a wrist watch and carried a walking-stick, that he must be effeminate." Actual daily contact between representatives of both nations soon dispelled this fond illusion, and created in its stead a friendly and helpful attitude that evinced a readiness on the average American's part to meet the Englishman's requirements in every direction possible. And, as Colonel Lyddon remarks, "the establishment of good relations in this case was of more than usual importance, as the hold over the firms was obviously less than in England, since any legal proceedings would have been most undesirable and very possibly unsuccessful." The British staffs of the Missions were drawn from all parts of the Empire and from all walks of life; yet, "in spite of this," says Colonel Lyddon, "a spirit of harmony and co-operation, of self-sacrifice and devotion to the common cause so pervaded all ranks that it was frequently commented on by men of experience (both English and American) who were brought into contact with the Missions." As an indication of the amount of travelling some members of the Missions had to undertake, Colonel Lyddon mentions that one member travelled over 350,000 miles by train in less than four years and another in three years over 250,000 miles. "These trips often lasted for two to three weeks on end, without allowing a single night in bed except on a train." The strain of this incessant travelling inevitably called for a high degree of physical fitness.

One of the by no means unimportant results of Mission touring in the States was the issue of much more stringent regulations for the storage and handling of explosives. Safety precautions were often found to be of the most primitive kind. Thus, Colonel Lyddon tells us, "at one loading factory, in a large shop containing over a million pounds of explosives and some six hundred workpeople, loading over 40,000 complete rounds of field artillery ammunition per day, the only safety pre-

cautions were a mat and a box at the entrance door with a notice: 'Wipe your shoes and put your matches in the box.' Another factory, using nitroglycerine, had a notice at the entrance: 'Don't enter with nails in shoes; the last man that did so went up.' And again, "One sportsman, who spent his time isolated in a lonely hut pouring black powder into shell, was, in spite of all warnings, found smoking as he carried on his work; and nothing would persuade him that the numerous explosions at various munition works all over the country needed no other explanation than a carefree spirit similar to his own."

To the story of the British Artillery Mission to the States Colonel Lyddon appends the moral that the time factor cannot be ignored in considering the question of raising a properly equipped modern army. In entering the war the United States had, he says, the full benefit of British and French experience as a guide to the necessary war equipment for its Expeditionary Force. It had unrivalled resources in engineering works, and many American engineers had already gained familiarity with the peculiarities of munitions manufacture through the production of guns, rifles and ammunition for the Allies. But in spite of all this and in spite, too, of their great efforts, the Americans, Colonel Lyddon points out, "failed to provide the armament for their Army during the eighteen months after they had entered the war. The Armistice found the American Expeditionary Force still dependent upon the Allies. Had the war continued, there is no doubt that ample munitions would have become available in time for the great American offensive which was contemplated. But the facts, as they were, afford such a striking object-lesson that they have been put on record here. It should be generally realised that, although an army can be raised very quickly, it cannot be equipped with modern artillery under something approaching two years. If this was so even with all the advantages the United States enjoyed, how much more would it be the case with almost all other nations?"

AN ELIZABETHAN WORTHY

The translator from the Classics and European languages did yeoman service to literature and drama in the Elizabethan age, and it is not surprising that he was held in high esteem. Arthur Golding, in particular, by his poetic rendering of Ovid's "Metamorphoses" won considerable fame for himself from his contemporaries, who not only admired "the thondrying of his verse" (Blundeville) and coupled him with "Maister Spencer" among "many excellent and singular good poets" (Meres), but paid him the compliment of pirating his work and borrowing his language. Shakespeare was obviously familiar with Golding's translation of the "Metamorphoses," even if, as some Shakespearian students have contended, he must also have read Ovid in the original Latin. Those famous lines of Prospero, for example, at the end of the "Tempest," beginning with "Ye Elves of hills, standing lakes and groves," contain so many similarities of phrase with Golding's translation of Medea's speech as to preclude the possibility of mere coincidence.

In addition to translating Ovid, Golding translated Caesar's Commentaries, Seneca's "Woorke concerning Benefyting," a large number of religious books from French and Latin, and hundreds of Calvin's sermons. He also collaborated with Sir Philip Sidney in finishing the latter's translation of De Mornay's "Trewnesse of Christianity." The discovery in the last thirty years of the Posthumous Copyright granted to Golding's son afforded Posterity proof of the remarkable industry of this Elizabethan translator, but it has been left to an American descendant of his, Mr. Louis Thorn Golding, to throw much light, as the result of pious and laborious research, both on Golding's life and his literary activities ("An Elizabethan Puritan," Richard R. Smith, New York, illustrated, \$3.50). It was this descendant, too, who was responsible for erecting in Belchamp St. Paul's Church, where Arthur Golding worshipped, a heraldic window and memorial tablet in his honour.

Golding's "Puritanism," his biographer indicates, was not of an extreme order. His religion was sincere, but eminently practical. Like most Elizabethans he was extremely litigious, and when he went to law he proved himself to be not only a hard fighter, but sometimes at least a trifle unscrupulous. "Apparently he was more ready to borrow money than to pay it back and, from the standpoint of worldly wisdom, he showed some skill in being able to hold off his creditor, Richard Andrew, for a number of years." His love of the Classics and his religion must have had a fierce

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Schools of Hellas

AN ESSAY ON
ANCIENT GREEK EDUCATION

By

K. J. FREEMAN,

Scholar of Winchester and of Trinity College, Cambridge

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MACMILLAN

battle in his breast before he undertook his translation of the "Metamorphoses," and he eased his conscience by appending a warning to his title page and adding an address "To the Reader" wherein the latter was told:

Now when thou readst of God or man, in stone, in
beast, or tree,
It is a myrrour for thy self thyne owne estate to see.
For under feyned names of Goddes it was the Poet's
guyse
The vice and faultes of all estates too taunt in covert
wyse.

Golding died heavily in debt. As he had inherited four rich manors and received at least £1,600 for the properties he sold, his descendant and biographer is at a loss to account for this indebtedness. Possibly Golding's litigiousness may have helped to exhaust his funds and made him dependent on too many loans. He was certainly, as his biographer admits, frequently disposed to borrow money. But Mr. Louis Golding prefers to find the explanation of his ancestor's indebtedness in possible speculations in overseas ventures.

The only original work of Golding's that has come down to us consists of one short poem in which he sung the praises of the English language and sought "to mend the things (in it) that yet are out of square," and two prose journalistic pot-boilers—one on an Elizabethan Bywaters case, the murder of Master Saunders, a worshipful citizen of London, the other a Discourse on the earthquake of 1580. Mr. Louis Golding has reproduced all three in his book in modern type for the edification of his readers. The two prose pieces well repay study as furnishing not only clues to their author's character but revealing pictures of the manners of the time. In the first Golding disclaims any intention of feeding "the fonde humour of such curious appetites as are more curious of other folkes' offences than hastie to redresse their owne," but manages nonetheless, with due admonition to his readers about the moral to be extracted from the tale, to set out most of the sensational details of a crime committed by a wife's paramour with the connivance of herself and another woman, and to describe how the two women were executed.

"in the presence of many persons of Honor and Worship and of so great a number of people as the lyke hath not bene seene there together in any mans remembrance, for almost the whole fields, and all the way from Newgate, was as full of folke as coulde well stande one by another: and besides that, great companies were placed bothe in the chambers neere aboutes (whose windows and walles were in many places beaten down to looke out at) and also upon the gutters, sides and toppes of houses and upon the batlements and steeple of S. Bartholomewes."

The second also includes a good deal of preaching on the frailties and wickednesses of the age—when "servants are become maysterlike," "men have taken the garish attire and nice behavior of women, and women, transformed from their own kinde, have gotten up the apparell and stomackes of men," and "in youth there was never like loocenesse and untimelie libertie nor in age like unstayedness and want of dyscretion"—but this as a prelude to an argument that the earthquake was intended as a Divine warning is rather spoilt by the author's subsequent declaration that the only lives lost in London were those of a boy and girl

listening to a sermon in a London church! Clearly, as Mr. Louis Golding perhaps a little sorrowfully admits, among this Puritan's many excellent qualities was not a sense of humour.

BARRIE'S LAST PLAY

Though "The Boy David" was not destined to prove a success on the stage, its author is known to have thought it to be among his best work, and Barrie lovers will be glad to have its text in book form with a preface by Mr. H. Granville-Barker ("The Boy David," Peter Davies, 5s.). In this preface Mr. Granville-Barker explains that the problem Barrie set himself was "how to wed fancy and poetry to the actualities of his realistic modern stage; how, in fact, to make the best of two dramatic worlds." He then proceeds to interpret with great sympathy and understanding the Barrie method of solving this problem, pointing out as regards the style of language adopted "the masterly economy, the equilibrium, the resiliency of it all."

ECONOMISTS INDICTED

Are our economists doing all they should in this much disturbed world where they have so many opportunities of displaying their practical wisdom? Mrs. Barbara Wootton, in her book "Lament for Economics" (Allen & Unwin, 6s.), answers this question with an emphatic negative, and her indictment of the modern economist is all the more effective because it is free from the jargon she roundly condemns and sparkles with wit. Moreover, she is by no means wholly destructive in her criticism, putting forward as she does an earnest plea for greater facilities for research in the social sciences. Whether she will succeed in bringing the professional economist out of the misty world of abstractions in which he apparently delights to move is perhaps another matter.

NEW NOVELS

Readers of "Regency" and of "Trumpeter Sound" will not need to be told that "Commander of Mists" (by D. L. Murray, Hodder & Stoughton, 8s. 6d.) is a brilliant piece of historical reconstruction, brilliantly written. The characters are historical with the exception of the hero and heroine, the young chief Glenmarisdale and his sister Darthula, whose charming name is a version of Deirdre. She accompanies Charles Edward on his travels with no breath of scandal. The Scottish scenes are admirably depicted, and the final chapters in London, when the young laird meets a "traitor's" end, are as grim and vivid as any romantic could desire.

M. Jean Giono is a French writer who has made his home in the French Alps, and it is of part of this region and of its primitive inhabitants that he paints us such a striking series of pictures in "The Song of the World" (Heinemann). It is a most unusual type of French novel, but there can be no denying that it is a fine piece of work, impressive both for its author's powers of descriptive writing and for the intensive realism of the narrative. It tells of a pilgrimage of an old sailor and his river island friend in search of the former's missing son

and of what befell them as a consequence of this search and of the son's passion for a beautiful woman.

Mr. Carter Dickson was the author of that ingeniously worked out crime story, "The Ten Tea Cups," and he brings the same unconventional sleuth who solved that mystery into his new book, "The Judas Window" (Heinemann), but this time as the counsel for the defence in a criminal trial. The hero had been interviewing his prospective father-in-law, a famous toxophilite, in the latter's study with the door locked and the window closed and shuttered. When, in response to the knocking of three people, he unlocked the door of the study and let them in his father-in-law was found dead on the floor with one of his prize-winning arrows piercing his heart. The hero protested that he had been drugged with doctored whisky and had no idea how the murder had been committed, but there was no sign of any glasses into which drugged whisky had been poured, and the arrow had his finger-prints on it. He was eventually acquitted through his counsel not only discovering the whereabouts of the drugged whisky and the missing glasses, but disclosing the "Judas window" through which the arrow had been shot by a crossbow into the dead man's body. A clever and very entertaining crime mystery.

Burglars and "two-storey" men who, on their unlawful occasions, find themselves in a room with a murdered man and in their haste to get away leave their finger-prints behind them would probably find it exceedingly hard to prove their innocence of the major crime in a court of law. But in the case of "This Man's Doom" (Hurst & Blackett) the professional gentleman could rely on Mr. Lee Thayer's very astute red-haired private detective, Peter Clancy, to save his neck and to put the responsibility of the crime on the right man's shoulders. And where Peter Clancy is, with his engaging assistant and valet Wiggarr, there the crime fan is sure of good and pleasant hunting with just the right kind of finish.

Spiritualistic séances and a cat, appropriately called Beelzebub, who has a liking for sitting on murdered people's chests, help to provide some of the original atmosphere in the American crime mystery, "The Case of the Frantic Ladies," by Leslie Floyd (Harrap). The tale is told by one of the "frantic" ones with a piquancy and humour that allows the reader to be amused as well as thrilled.

When the heroine of "The Giant's Chair" (by Winston Graham, Ward Lock) journeyed to Wales to take up the post of secretary to a woman she had previously met abroad, she little knew what weird and terrifying experiences were in store for her. However, she was also to have the compensation of being brought into contact with a very attractive young man who was always at hand to help her and share her troubles. Mr. Graham mixes his romance and thrills with excellent judgment in a tale that is both easy and enjoyable to read.

Mr. Dennis Wheatley is not only an expert in constructing crime puzzles: he can also tell a first-rate adventure story, as he proved with "They

Found Atlantis" and has now proved again with his "Uncharted Seas" (Hutchinson, 8s. 6d.). In this new book he treats his readers to a succession of thrills: abandonment of a supposedly sinking ship, a fight between black and white in one of the ship's boats, the rediscovery of the still floating ship, the drifting into a weed-clogged sea infested by devil fish, the sighting of two islands, one inhabited by blacks, the other by whites saved from wrecks down the ages, attacks by balloon-supported blacks on the ship's company, and finally the grand finale of a triumphant assault on the blacks island. The threads of the tale are romance and racial passion, and, not content with his long series of exciting episodes, the author indulges his fancy by picturing for us on the white's island a fascinating eighteenth century social scene. Another attractive feature of this splendidly imaginative adventure tale is the inclusion in it of three delightful poems by the author's stepson, Mr. W. A. Younger, whose first book of verse has just been published by Messrs. Hutchinson and displays unusually promising talent.

"Son of Spain," by A. R. and R. K. Weekes (Ward Locke), is the story of the Spanish Civil War's beginnings in the island of Majorca. It is distinguished both for clever characterisation and the authenticity of its local colour. It was written, the authors tell us, in the island itself a year ago. Familiarity with the island, its inhabitants and its recent history has not been allowed by the authors to interfere with their flights of fancy, and the result is a charming and vividly told tale.

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"DEATH FUNGUS"

Constable

Round the Empire

HOW CANADA EXPLOITS HER WEALTH

WEALTH without the power to exploit it would be as valueless as gold to a thirsty man stranded in the desert. As with the individual, so with the country. The vast reserves of Canada would be of little import were it not for the elaborate means she has devised to commercialise them. Happily the country has been endowed with extensive water power resources which have reduced the working costs of mining much below the normal average. Even crude ores, usually discarded owing to the high cost of refining and providing a margin of profit, are now being won, thereby adding immeasurably to the national wealth. Water provides the energy in refining them, in the vast mining and smelting industries centred at Trail, in the copper mining of the Manitoba and Saskatchewan boundary, in the gold, silver and nickel operations in Northern Ontario, in the asbestos and copper mining in Quebec, in the gold winning of Nova Scotia, in the refining of radium ore on Great Bear Lake, in the electro, chemical and metallurgical operations at Shawinigan and Niagara, and in the iron and steel mills at Sault Ste. Marie, Hamilton and Port Golbourne. Small wonder that last year over three billion kilowatt hours of electricity were consumed by the mining industries alone, 95 per cent. of it being purchased from the central electric stations.

Canada has still a long way to go before she can touch the remarkable records of South Africa in the way of gold production, but her efforts are, to say the least, spectacular. According to the Hon. T. A. Crerar, Canadian Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, it will probably be found that during 1937 the value of the Dominion's gold production was 10 per cent. higher than in the previous year. This will bring her valuation up to something in the neighbourhood of £28,000,000. South Africa's gold production for 1937 was over £82,000,000, but how strenuous are the efforts of Canada to exploit her riches in the precious metal may be gathered from the fact that at the close of 1937 there were 138 gold milling plants in operation with a combined daily capacity of 42,000 tons, while a further 13 milling plants with a total capacity of 3,200 tons are under construction. Eight more are now proposed.

Much has been said lately about the condition of agriculture in the Canadian Prairie Provinces, and some commentators have not by any means discouraged the idea that the whole of the West was an arid plain. How erroneous is that impression can be gathered from the fact that the gross agricultural revenue of Canada for 1937 is estimated at well over \$1,000,000,000, or roughly £200,000,000. This is practically the same as in the previous year. Not only so, but according to indications which have yet to be confirmed by actual returns, the greatest improvement during

the year took place in Manitoba—one of the Prairie Provinces. It is only in the matter of field crops, indeed, that there has been any decrease in value, this largely due to the difficulties of the wheat situation in Saskatchewan and in sections of Southern Alberta. Elsewhere the field crops have been larger than in 1936, and about the same in value.

In milk and fruit production Canada has been steadily going ahead of recent years. The dairy production was last year the greatest recorded since 1930. The total imports of cheese from all countries into the United Kingdom have been increasing, and if Canada can maintain or increase her proportion of this trade she will continue to receive the best returns that the cheese market has to offer. As regards fruit, the 1937 apple crop was five million barrels, one of the largest on record. The peach crop was 49 per cent. above that of 1936. The fruit industry has an important position in the export markets, and it may also look forward to a growing domestic market for good fruit. Finally, the 1937 tobacco crop in Canada was the largest ever produced, and the quality was exceptionally good. An increasing use of Canadian flue-cured tobacco in the United Kingdom is apparent, but the development of this market is expected to be gradual rather than spectacular.

AERIAL MAPPING

One is a little apt to overlook in these days of aerial enterprise the magnitude and achievements of scientists in more pedestrian epochs. Take, for example, the case of Canada. Enormous progress has been made there during the past few years in aerial mapping. Yet before 1922, before this more rapid method of conveying the country, as it were, to paper, some 240,000 square miles had been painstakingly mapped on the ground itself on a scale of four miles to an inch. Not all of this, moreover, was in the settled areas. In 1923, however, the Ottawa Government allocated aeroplanes for the work of mapping Canada, and with the help of the Royal Canadian Air Force, and using two methods of photography—the oblique which covers large territory at the expense of detail, and the vertical which covers detail at the expense of large expanses. Over 480,000 square miles have been mapped, much of the territory being in unpopulated areas. Much of this work has proved to be invaluable to the intending prospector, who originally would have been obliged to spend weeks, and possibly months, in exploring the country, whereas to-day his expert eye glances at the photograph of the site and he is enabled roughly to determine his prospects from the physical features of the ground.

WOOD THAT DEFEATS THE ANT

The white ant is one of the world's more conspicuous pests. Its appetite is voracious and its tastes liberal in the extreme. It has been found, however, that the red cedar of Canada is a wood which it either scorns or cannot deal with. Two further proofs of what is being recognised as a scientific fact have come to hand. One is the case of a tennis pavilion which two years ago was

erected in South Africa and which, although in the white ant area, has remained untouched. The second instance comes from a gentleman living in Natal, whose flower stakes have all been attacked with the exception of those of red cedar, which were untouched.

RACING IN SOUTH AFRICA

A serious dispute has arisen in the South African racing world through the appointment by the Natal Provincial Council of a Committee to inquire into the control of horse-racing in Natal. That Committee held that, in view of the serious consequences of certain sentences passed by the Jockey Club in South Africa, there was an overwhelming case for the appointment of an appeal tribunal to prevent "the flagrant violation of the rules of national justice." The Jockey Club had refused to co-operate with the Committee and had threatened the possibility that racing in Natal might become unregistered, with the result that Natal would have neither horses nor jockeys for their race fixtures. Undeterred by these threats, the Committee, in its interim report just issued, recommends: The appointment of an appeal tribunal to hear all appeals against decisions which embrace a sentence or a verdict which withdraws a licence already issued, refuses the grant of the renewal of a licence, or is a sentence of warning off or suspension for an indefinite period; or any other sentence which, on application being made, the tribunal permits to be made a ground of appeal. (2) That the appeal tribunal should consist of three members. (3) That it be made a condition governing the issue of a race-course licence that it be issued subject to the provisions of certain ordinances. (4) That each racing club with a gross revenue of £10,000 per annum shall appoint at least one stipendiary steward with the approval of the Administrator. (5) That the Administrator be empowered to appoint a person to be known as an Administrator's honorary racing steward, who shall have the power to attend all inquiries and to enter upon all premises and places where horse-racing is conducted. (6) Having regard to the letter of the Jockey Club dated December 5, 1937, in which they decline to agree to the establishment of an appeal tribunal and also to their refusal to meet the committee to discuss other matters, the Committee further recommend that, in addition to the amendments to the racing ordinances suggested above, permissive powers must also be granted by the Provincial Council to the Administrator to set up in Natal a racing board of control to regulate and control the professional side of racing.

SOIL EROSION IN EAST AFRICA

Two rather different views on the subject of native responsibility for soil erosion in East Africa are presented by an article by Sir Daniel Hall in the "Empire Cotton Growing Review," and a memorandum recently submitted by Mr. Ernest Harrison, Director of Agriculture in Tanganyika, to his Government. Sir Daniel stresses the need of immediate action to counteract the wasteful and destructive agricultural methods followed by East African natives. "In the first place," he writes, "it must be realised that, whereas European farm-

ing is essentially founded upon a rotation of crops in which a recuperative leguminous crop finds place, and where livestock play their part in converting into manure those parts of the crops such as straw, which are not valuable for human food, together with grass and other rough fodder, the African tribes, on the other hand, are for the most part schooled in the more primitive stage of shifting cultivation. Under this practice the cultivator clears a plot of land, perhaps burning off the timber before putting in his food crops. After two or three years of continuous cultivation the soil begins to become exhausted, and when that takes place and weeds become intractable, the plot is abandoned and a new piece of land is taken up. The abandoned plot in course of time recovers sufficiently to be taken into cultivation again, but under this system a tribe requires seven times as much land as is actually under cultivation at any one time.

"Another point of great importance," Sir Daniel goes on to say, "is that the Bantu tribes, which predominate in East Africa, attach the greatest value to cattle, which represent wealth and position but serve little or no economic purpose. They are not eaten, except ceremonially, and by many tribes they are not milked; they are not beasts of burden and their dung is not used as manure. At the same time every native is anxious to increase the number he owns, for on that depends his position in the tribe. The native population not only practises a destructive and wasteful form of agriculture but, as already mentioned, keeps a vast uneconomic herd of cattle, including the devastating goat, in large numbers. It is small wonder that famine is never far away from some tribes, and if this is to be avoided the native must either change his methods or limit his numbers. African soil was never rich, and soil erosion has been developed for years without attracting much notice, but has now reached the stage where the growth of the desert may speed up catastrophically. The African cannot increase or maintain his present numbers unless he learns how to use his land so that it will continuously produce food. Administrations have shown how it can be done, but it will need both a strengthening of the agricultural staff and years of effort before the improved practices are taken up. Effort in all these directions, on a large scale, is an urgent necessity."

Mr. Ernest Harrison, in contrast with Sir Daniel Hall, takes the view that it will be "unduly pessimistic to be gloomy about the condition of the whole Territory" as regards the problem of soil erosion and over-stocking. "While appreciating," he says, "the losses suffered by individuals through erosion of soil, the danger to tribes and to water supplies in certain areas, it must be realised that the whole Territory is not seriously endangered by man's disturbance of the land, for the total cultivated or exposed soil area is only about one-thirtieth of the whole. It is computed that 7 per cent. of the area of the Territory is suffering from over-stocking. Thus, in the extreme, only one-tenth of the total area is affected, and some of that one-tenth is not really menaced." Soil erosion, points out Mr. Harrison, is a very natural thing; even on land clothed with grass and

bush, run-off is inevitable, and floods will occur under undisturbed natural conditions. Anti-erosion measures carried to excess might turn the whole Territory into a succession of swamps.

"In almost every district of the Territory the cultivator has been shown how to reduce erosion to a practical minimum. By trial and experiment, methods have been devised—varying with climate, soil, and existing cultivation practices—which operate to baffle the flow of water and the movement of soil. Such trials will continue until the most feasible and practical measures to suit the diverse conditions of the many different areas of the Territory are known." The varying reactions of cultivators, native and non-native, to the advice given by circulars, pamphlets and oral instruction are admitted and emphasised. It is remarkable that in certain areas, such as the Livingstone Mountains of the Songea district, the natives long ago evolved systems of land management that were practically ideal counters to water erosion. The traditional native method of ridge-cultivation can, it is argued, easily be modified where necessary into an anti-erosion measure, while it is, in itself, essentially sound, and provides a great surface for water absorption. On the other hand, difficulty arises from "casual grass burning on hill-sides, in the aggregate extensive, and leading to the destruction of forest and valuable bush; over-grazing and trampling by stock; failure to plant trees; and shifting cultivation, especially on steep slopes." But "native authorities are busy planting wind-breaks across the country, others are adopting contour wind-breaks, are declaring hill-sides and hill-tops as reserves not to be cultivated, and grazed only during defined periods. All this indicates that propaganda and demonstration are having their effect."

ASHES ON A BRIDGE

The ashes of Sir Henry Birchenough, late Chairman of the British South Africa Company and the Beit Trustees, have arrived in Southern Rhodesia from England. As soon as the chamber which is to receive them is completed at the Birchenough Bridge, over the Sabi river, they will be placed on the top of a column and sealed in position. At a later date a bronze panel, bearing an inscription, will be erected. It is expected that one or two members of Sir Henry's family will attend the unveiling.

AIR DEVELOPMENTS

A study of some recent reports from Africa calls fresh attention to a rapidly-developing form of commercial air traffic. This is the employment of special-charter aircraft, machines being engaged in constantly-increasing numbers for both business and pleasure flights. The importance of special-charter air work has also been emphasised lately, in reports coming to hand from India. These deal, more particularly, with an increase in the number of aircraft chartered for special flights by commercial executives, merchants, and other business travellers. Canada and Australia have also reported a general increase in special-charter flying.

Special consignments of oysters, gathered on the fishing grounds of Karachi, now appear that same evening on dinner-tables in New Delhi, being flown from Karachi in the air-liners of Imperial Airways. From the pearling centres of the Persian Gulf, valuable pearls are now consigned by air to all parts of the world, while more and more pearl merchants fly to India in the air-liners of Imperial Airways to market specially selected pearls. Leaving England recently and flying through to Australia, a business man caught at Brisbane a connecting air service to Sydney, and immediately on arrival there, went aboard a steamer for New Zealand, completing in 14 days an air-and-sea voyage from England through to Auckland.

Arrangements have been practically concluded by which, as from February 1st, there will be six return mail and passenger aeroplanes weekly between Bulawayo in Southern Rhodesia and the Rand air port in South Africa (600 miles). Machines of the Rhodesia and Nyasaland Airways will alternate with the South African Airways in this service, and the former company will operate a comprehensive linking service between Bulawayo and Salisbury (300 miles).

A recent trend in air-freight transport along the trunk route from England to the East is to be found in an increased use which Eastern potentates and rulers are making of the air service in obtaining urgently-required articles from England. Such consignments now cover a wide field. Not long ago, one of them took the form of a box of expensive British-made toys, going out by air from England to the palace of an Indian ruler. An examination of waybills on Empire routes shows—apart from the fact just mentioned—a recent growth in the use of these services for the dispatch of films, engineering parts, wireless valves, and urgently consigned medicines and vaccines.

INDIA'S COMMUNIST DANGER

"The greatest danger not only to the Congress, but to the whole country, lies in the growing progress of Communism under the name and guise of Socialism," declared Sir Chimanlal Setalvad in his presidential address to the National Liberal Federation of India in Calcutta. He was all for Socialism if it meant equal opportunities for everyone, an equitable sharing of profits between industry and labour, improved living conditions and perhaps in some cases the nationalisation of particular industries. "But the conception of Socialism," Sir Chimanlal said, "is quite different in the minds of those who are advocating it. What they want is really the Communism of Soviet Russia, the abolition of the classes and private property; the rule of the proletariat, and not parliamentary democracy. The Congress president has openly avowed this to be his ideal for India and when such a declaration created considerable agitation he, I believe, said that the question of the inauguration of such Socialism was far away and that the present objective was the attainment of freedom for India. The implication, however, must not be ignored that when freedom is attained he and those who think with him will use that freedom for the

purpose of introducing a *régime* of the Soviet Russia type."

On the subject of Federation Sir Chimanlal said the Liberal Party had accepted it in principle, but had been rightly critical of the detailed constitution in which the idea had been embodied. All political parties have strongly put forward their objections to the present scheme but with no effect. "Even the modest proposals embodied in the joint memorandum of the British Indian delegates comprising members of all communities and parties met with no response. The proposed Federation is indeed a novel one as it is to be a Federation of British Indian Provinces with parliamentary government and autocratic Indian States. But this owing to existing circumstances cannot be avoided. To wait till the administrations of Indian States are brought into line with that of British Indian Provinces will mean indefinite waiting for United India. The bringing together of the States and British India will itself much accelerate the process of introduction of representative government in the States. Long-drawn-out negotiations are going on with the States about the terms on which they are to come into Federation. British India hopes that more and more concessions will not be made for the purpose. It is unfair to the British Indian people that they are not kept informed of the progress and various phases of these negotiations so that Government may have before them the British Indian view in the matter."

CALL FOR RAJPUT UNITY

"It will indeed be the happiest moment of my life if I am able to realise my dream of one crore of Rajputs of the great land of Bharata being organised and united under one flag of the Kshatriya Mahasabha, thus constituting this organisation as a really representative body of our community," said the Maharaja of Patiala in his presidential address to the Kshatriya Mahasabha early in January. (The speech was read by his son, the Yuvaraj.) "Let us," added the Maharaja, "not be content with mere window-dressing, but get on to substantial work." His Highness stressed the need for concerted action and exhorted Kshatriyas to strengthen the Mahasabha with a view to successfully awakening the backward masses and to combat the social, economic and political evils in the community.

Another subject that needed attention was education. "Where no doubt our arms and soldierly qualities will always stand us in good stead, we have," said the Maharaja, "to bring into play our propensities for successfully wielding the pen and influencing the Press and the platform." His Highness urged the youth of the community to take advantage of the educational facilities offered in larger numbers and advised the Ruling Princes and Chiefs to employ educated Rajputs in their respective States. He hoped that the British Government would recognise "their unswerving loyalty to our beloved King and give them their due quota in Government services." Regarding the caste system, the Maharaja said that he was a strong advocate of the purity of blood and purity of occupation and also the caste system, inasmuch

as it sought to impose an obligation on the individual to do his duty in the state of life in which he had been born. His Highness advised the community to bring about a judicious and reasoned blending of all that was good both in ancient customs and modern civilisation.

CEYLONESE DIET

Dried "Ladies' Fingers" are more nutritious than ash pumpkins, and two-thirds of all the foodstuffs consumed in Ceylon are imported. These are but two of the facts revealed by a report on "Nutrition in Ceylon," resulting from a five-year survey of the island by Dr. L. Nicholls. Ladies' fingers are vegetables and are so named because they are five to eight inches long and cylindrical. They grow on five foot high plants and are eaten when young, since on reaching maturity they become fibrous.

For the purposes of the survey many vegetables, including ladies' fingers, were sent to London for analysis, while ten thousand Ceylon children of all classes were questioned as to the meals they had eaten the day before. Other facts revealed by the report are that diets in towns are better than those in rural areas, diets in wet zones are superior to those in dry zones, and two-thirds of all the foodstuffs consumed in Ceylon are imported, mainly in the form of polished rice and pulses. The recent report urges that the subject of nutrition should be widely taught in Ceylon; that the production of foodstuffs should be enhanced and special attention paid to the selection and cultivation of pulses, tubers and leafy vegetables which have good food values; an increased supply of good milk should be made available, as should a cheap supply of fish for inland districts of the island.

Ceylon is now independent of foreign eggs. According to the report of the island's Minister of Agriculture for the year 1936, Ceylon has reduced her imports of eggs by ninety-nine per cent. in three years. To protect her own poultry industry Ceylon was compelled to raise the import duty on eggs in 1934, since fifteen million eggs valued at £35,500 were imported in the previous year. In 1936 the imports of eggs had dropped to 140,000, valued at £220. The import duty not only shut out the foreign product but has naturally built anew the island's own industry. Some two thousand fowls are being sold every day in Colombo—an indication of the increase of poultry breeding in the island. The report also indicates that Ceylon is growing more of her own vegetables.

TEMPLE TREASURE

Over a million rupees worth of treasure (£75,000) has been found in Ceylon. The treasure, which consists of articles belonging to the famous Temple of the Tooth at Kandy, and which were believed to have been lost, were found in receptacles which had not been opened for a quarter of a century. The discovery was made when the Public Trustee handed over the belongings of the Temple to its Warden and the receptacles were examined. One of the articles is a book with golden leaves dealing with the procedure of the ordination of monks and is said to have been presented to the Temple by the King of Siam.

Letters to the Editor

END IT OR MEND IT

Sir,—The League Council this week is holding its hundredth session. That might be an impressive fact did we not know that the League of Nations is even with some of the weaker Powers a discredited and much suspect body.

Only last week the Swedish Foreign Minister found it necessary to deprecate what he held to be a clear tendency to transform the League into alliance of "Democracy against Dictatorship."

That the League has undoubtedly helped to split up the world into two rival and antagonistic camps, there can be, I think, no doubt.

And that it does not make for any real unanimity of purpose amongst its members, even in its present much depleted state, is obvious from the numerous suggestions of "reform" being freely offered in various quarters. Again, while Britain and France, for some obscure reason, are still firmly opposed to the recognition of the Italian conquest of Abyssinia there is a growing movement, it is reported, among the minor Powers of Europe to take that step at the earliest possible moment.

The fact is the League is really *functus officio*. It has no power behind it; its sanctions system

has been proved to be ridiculously ineffective and is never likely to be tried again. The proposal to create an economic and financial organisation wider than that of League membership merely serves to illustrate the fact that the League itself is quite incapable of being effectively "reformed."

And since we cannot mend or reform the League, why not end it at once and discover other and better means for ensuring the world's peace?

S. M. HARVEY.

Reading.

ULSTER AND EIRE

Sir,—In your comments on Mr. de Valera's discussions with British Ministers, you are quite right when you say that "probably the time is not yet ripe for any move in the direction of (Irish) unity." It most certainly is not ripe. Lord Craigavon has given the sort of answer to Mr. de Valera's proposals that Ulstermen expected; the elections in Northern Ireland should make it abundantly clear what Ulster opinion is in regard to union with the South.

Mr. de Valera is not going the best way to propitiate Ulster by endeavouring to make Whitehall bring persuasion to bear on Northern Ireland. It is hardly surprising that the raising of the partition question by him in his recent talks in Whitehall has caused irritation as well as a certain amount of amused contempt in Northern Ireland.

J. H. D.

Belfast.

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Your Investments

MARKETS SLOW TO REVIVE

A 21-DAY Stock Exchange Account at this time of year is an unusual occurrence, and it has found markets in that inactive state when confidence is slow to revive. But just when the experts seem to delight in urging upon us the view that a slump can only be avoided by a miracle, the omens for a revival of confidence, which is all that is lacking in this modern business world, appear more propitious.

In Europe the political situation for the moment is decidedly more hopeful and, though the East is producing unpleasant incidents from day to day, the position in the United States has taken a turn for the better. The latter is, one feels, the key to the whole business condition of the world for the next few years at least. The setback in U.S. consumption of commodities has been directly responsible for market reaction in this country. Had it not been for the artificial support given by the re-armament programme, it is likely that the U.S. business reaction would have been directly reflected in British employment figures. Now America is showing more readiness to take account of realities and the commodity outlook is brighter. Already production of many leading commodities has been drastically curtailed, and a sharp upswing in prices is by no means unlikely. Shipping shares should be among the first to benefit, and such issues as Union Castle at 20s. 9d. or Clan Line at 6½ look particularly attractive.

TAXES AND THE INVESTOR

This is the tax-gathering season, a factor which must inevitably damp the enthusiasm of the investor when income-tax is at 5s. in the £. Gilt-edged stocks have enjoyed a boom, for there has been a considerable influx of French money to British Government securities owing to the Paris political crisis, while the banks have experienced a lower demand for advances in recent months and their swollen deposits are finding their way once again into investments. But there is likely to be growing interest in such shares as Marks & Spencer, and D. Gestetner, where a substantial proportion of the year's distribution is normally in the form of a capital bonus not subject to tax. Gestetner 5s. units at 35s. look particularly attractive, for the company is believed to have enjoyed another good year. The market is expecting last year's 40 per cent. dividend to be maintained, with some variation in the rate of capital bonus. If the latter is regarded as a free-of-tax "windfall," the 6 per cent. yield on the shares alone would be an excellent return.

BRITAIN'S TRADE NEEDS

Mr. Edwin Fisher, Chairman of Barclays Bank, strongly deprecated unnecessary talk of impending depression in his address to shareholders at last week's meeting, but he showed full realisation of Britain's urgent trade needs if the present standard of living is to be maintained. Mr. Fisher emphasised the necessity for improving world trade, and particularly for Britain to close the gap between her imports and exports. In this connection Mr. Fisher urged a resumption of lending abroad. "We should," he said, "aim at least at maintaining our external capital and keep before us the desirability of providing funds for sound development abroad, which in itself would do much to increase world trade." His appeal for a restoration of international confidence was particularly timely, since there are signs that the first steps in this direction are now in contemplation. The able summing-up of the world economic situation given by Barclays Bank Chairman was a fitting opening to the big bank meetings.

THE BANKS AND INDUSTRY

The "Big Five" banks—Barclays, Lloyds, Midland, National Provincial and Westminster—experienced a rise in aggregate loans to customers in 1937 of £86,600,000 to a total of £852,200,000, the largest since 1929. It may generally be accepted that the basis of the loans last year was sounder than that of 1929, when speculative mushroom companies of all kinds were not always wisely financed. It is obvious that the banks thoroughly played their part in financing industrial expansion in this country last year.

The Midland Bank's assets reached the huge record total of £546,084,000, deposits being £9,432,000 higher on the year. Almost one-third of Barclays' advances were direct to productive industries, borrowers numbering 215,688. This represents an increase of some 13,000 customers for loans, and most of these new borrowers were for amounts not exceeding £1,000, an indication of the banks' increasing readiness to cater for the "small man."

National Provincial Bank experienced an actual shrinkage in deposits, so that the rise of £18,368,000 in advances represented in fact more useful employment for existing funds. Lloyds Bank advances showed an increase of £21,565,000 at £170,844,025, against a rise of £4,010,000 in deposits, the figures indicating an enormous expansion in genuine banking business. Westminster Bank's assets reached the record total of £409,639,000, with an increase of £11,118,200 in advances. Westminster Bank, by adding a 2 per cent. bonus to the usual 18 per cent. dividend, are paying 20 per cent. in all for the year. The £4 shares, £1 paid, stand at 95s. ex the dividend, placing them on the attractive yield basis of £4 4s. per cent.

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